



**Fatality #1 - January 7, 2003**

**Fire - TX - Cement**

**TXI Industries - Midlothian Quarry and Plant**

**METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY** - On January 7, 2003, a 34-year-old contract employee with 10 years welding experience was fatally injured at a cement plant. The victim and three co-workers were working from two man lifts on opposite sides of a 16-foot diameter metal duct connected to a scrubber. They were utilizing welding machines to air gouge a metal flange when an ignition occurred inside the scrubber. Apparently hot slag fell inside the scrubber and ignited a combustible membrane that served to filter exhaust gases exiting the scrubber. A second victim was briefly hospitalized; the 2 remaining workers were treated and released.



**Best Practices**

- Analyze maintenance tasks to identify possible hazards and ensure that all affected persons are familiar with the job procedures prior to the commencement of work.
- Ensure that heat sources capable of producing combustion are separated from combustible material.
- Provide manufacturer's safety data information for all material used on site and ensure that contractors are provided with this information.

This is the first fatality reported in calendar year 2003 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2002, there were no fatalities reported in these industries. This is the first fatality classified as Ignition or Explosion of Gas in 2003. There were no Ignition or Explosion of Gas fatalities in the same period in 2002.